(c) Press Council of India does not adjudicate complaints against Electronic Media (TV channels) as its domain extends only over Print Media.

Political solution for Sri Lanka

*78. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka and handed over a letter from Prime Minister to the president of Sri Lanka and reiterated India's support for a political solution;

(b) if so, whether India has been pushing the Government of Sri Lanka to come out with a solution devolution package acceptable to all sections of society, particularly the Tamils;

(c) if so, what was the outcome of the discussions; and

(d) to what extent Sri Lanka has responded to India's proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Foreign Secretary visited Sri lanka from July 3-4,2006 and conveyed a message from our Prime Minister to the Sri Lankan President reiterating India's support for a political solution.

(b) and (c) Government of India has emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to work towards an early revival of the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward. India has consistently been in favour of a politically negotiated settlement of the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka and in this regard, Government has stressed the need for a devolution package acceptable to all sections of the Sri Lankan society.

(d) The Sri Lankan Government has conveyed that war is not an option and that it remained committed to a political solution to the ethnic issue.

Sale of surplus coal by captive coal producers

*79. SHRI KARNENOU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to permit sale of surplus coal by captive coal producers to other end-users;

(b) if so, by when the law would be enacted; and

(c) the number of captive coal producers in India and quantity of their production?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) and (b) As per the Minsitry of Coal Circular dated 01.03.1999 coal produced from a captive block if rendered surplus or in excess to the requirement due to any contingency or force *majeure situation* is allowed to be sold to another approved end user with prior approval of the Central Government.

(c) 5 (Five) captive coal producers have started coal production and the coal produced during 2005-06 wa 13-339 million tonnes.

Development of Ports in Kerala

*80. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the relevant features of the National Maritime Development Programme and to what extent this programme has been implemented in the country;

(b) whether Government have proposed the ports of Azhikkal and Vizhinjam in Kerala among the ports selected for this programme;

(c) the other ports included in this programme;

(d) whether the State Government of Kerala have submitted an outline project for the development of these two ports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether the proposal of Kerala has been accepted by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), to be taken up for implementation in phases over a defined period through public private partnership, a total of 387 specific projects have been identified. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the maritime sector including construction/ upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity to major ports, equipment upgradation/modernization and other backup facilities in the major ports, tonnage acquisition, maritime training, coastal shipping, aids to navigation, shipbuilding and building up of Inland Water Transport (IWT) infrastructure. Total investment involved under the Programme is Rs.1,00,339 crores. The objective is to upgrade and modernize the maritime infrastructure in India which will enable it to